

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-27 are pending in the application, with 1 and 26 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Abstract***

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure as not having the proper language and format. Accordingly, Applicants submit an amended Abstract of the Disclosure herewith that complies with the language and format requirements.

***Double Patenting***

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Application No. 09/509,201, now U.S. Patent No. 6,846,413 issued January 25, 2005. Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer herewith rendering this rejection moot.

***Conclusion***

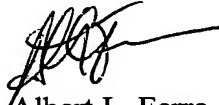
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,679

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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